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The Mission:

This church exists by the grace of God for the glory of God, which shall be the ultimate purpose in all its activities. This church glorifies God by exalting Jesus Christ through our worship, by loving Jesus Christ through our commitment, and by becoming like Jesus Christ through our service. Embedded in this worship:

- *Making disciples, equipping the saints in Bible instruction and study*
- *Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and personal evangelism and other means consistent with the teachings of the Holy Spirit*
- *Encouraging, supporting and participating in mission work, local, domestic, and international*
- *Administering the ordinances of baptism and communion; encouraging Biblical fellowship among believers*
- *Serving other individuals, families, and churches by providing for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in the name of Jesus Christ*
- *Calling fellow churches to Biblical faithfulness and purity through instruction and encouragement about the nature of the local church*

Welcome to The Landing!

Pastoral Sightings

by Pastor Brent Nelson

Homesick for God

Every human being is homesick for God, without even knowing it – one writer reminds us. At a time of year when we look to the season of

the holidays, this homesickness grows deeper still. God would have it be so. He means to be, through his Son Jesus Christ, the perfect and final home for all who trust in him. One of the greatest theologians of the last two thousand years, Augustine of Hippo, declared to God in prayer, “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.”¹ His words aptly reflect Holy Scripture.

Genesis reveals we are made in God’s image:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”²

And Romans declares all persons know God:

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”³

That restlessness we feel often, that insecurity, that rudderless, lost feeling, may be this universal human experience of homesickness within us, pressing us to know God. Maybe the most powerful parable in all of Scripture is the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. Jesus

tells it to teach us of the Father’s strong welcome to all persons no matter their species of sin. When the younger son takes his inheritance from the Father and runs away from home to spend it in wasteful sin, he does so looking for something. He yearns for something he believes is out there and not at home. Mercifully, he comes to himself. No Jew would eat the swine, much less the food of swine; yet, this wayward son could only long for swine food – no one gave him anything. Yet, at this rock bottom point, the son realizes he could offer himself to his father as hired help. So in faith he goes home. Ah blessed homesickness!

That ache drives us back to God, our true and final home! Or maybe you are the elder brother. Hard-working, responsible, diligent, and obedient. Maybe you are convinced that since the younger brother squandered his wealth, and yours remains invested and growing, that you deserve the greater reward! Yet, you bear no family resemblance to your Father. He receives your guilty younger brother with joy, a ring, a cloak and a party. You receive him with a disdainful glance.

¹ St. Augustine of Hippo, “Confessions” Ignatius Press, 2012.
² Genesis 1:27, ESV.
³ Romans 1:21, ESV.



Harry Bollback, who wrote “Ring the Bells,” “was an aspiring concert pianist who was saved in his teenage years and gave up his career to serve the Lord. His passion was the youth of our world. He served five years in the jungles of Brazil, fourteen years as Founder and Director of Word of Life camps and the Bible Institute in Brazil, co-Director of Word of Life Fellowship in the US and now, along with the late Jack Wyrzten, as Founder of Word of Life. As Bro. Bollback gave of his life to the Lord, the Lord gave him an opportunity to use his music. As you read the words to “Ring the Bells,” think about its story, not only of the Lord’s



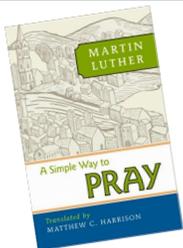
birth, but of the responsibility of telling others about the message we hold dear in our hearts of salvation that is free to all. May we be diligent to spread the news that Christ was born to die, so that others may have eternal life.”

Ring the bells, ring the bells, Let the whole world know
Christ was born in Bethlehem Many years ago:
Born to die That man might live, Came to earth new life to give,
Born of Mary, born so low, Many years ago.

(“Tidbits of Wisdom,” <http://tidbitswww.com/2009/12/merry-christmas-ring-the-bells/>)

The Dog-Eared Page

by Cherie Filmore



Simple Way to Pray

Martin Luther

Translated by Matthew C. Harrison

Concordia Publishing House, 2012

This is a very enjoyable and quick read. It is only 30 pages long, plus has it an appendix that contains the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed for quick reference. The translation is very up to date and easy to read.

Luther wrote this for his friend, Peter Beskendorf, who had asked for some practical advice on prayer. So it reads like a letter or like he is just sitting in your living room having a chat with you. I found it very personable, like talking with an old friend.

In the booklet, Luther introduces the idea of using Instruction, Thanksgiving, Confession, and Prayer, as starting points for prayer. He recommends starting with the Lord's Prayer and section by section asking, "What does this teach me?" (Instruction) "What do I have to be thankful for here?" (Thanksgiving) "What can I confess?" (Confession) "What should I ask for here?" (Prayer)

The bulk of the booklet consists in Luther going through the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed doing the above as an example of how he prays using this helpful structure. This could really be done using the Bible, as well. I practice a similar method using the framework of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. So it was really fun to pick Luther's brain, in a sense, and see exactly how he would pray. Recommend!

Landing Larder

Nancy Peyton's Pumpkin Pie Dessert

Crust:

1 box yellow cake mix (save out 1 cup dry mix for topping)
 ½ cup melted butter
 1 beaten egg
 Mix well and pat into 9x13 pan.

Filling:

3 cups pumpkin (I used two 15 oz. cans.)
 3 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
 ½ cup milk
 ½ cup brown sugar
 2 eggs

Mix well and spread over cake mixture.

Topping:

1 cup dry cake mix
 ¼ cup white sugar
 1 tsp. cinnamon
 3 tbsp. soft butter
 Combine and sprinkle on top of pie mix.
 Optional: add 1 cup chopped walnuts

Bake at 350 for 45-50 minutes. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

Aunt Sally Cookies from Jerry Johnson

1 cup shortening	2 tsp ginger
1 cup white sugar	2 tsp cinnamon
1 cup molasses	4 tsp soda
1 tsp salt	1 cup buttermilk
½ tsp cloves	2 eggs
¼ tsp nutmeg	5 ½ cups flour

Method:

Whip the shortening until smooth. Add eggs; then the other ingredients. If the dough is too sticky, add a little more flour. Chill dough.

Roll out about ¼ of the dough at a time on a floured table. Don't roll too thin. Cut cookies out with an old spam can (or any large cutter). Bake at 360 degrees for 10 min. Cool on wire rack.

Frosting:

Soak 1 package of plain gelatin in 1 cup water. Add 1 cup of sugar, bring to a boil and simmer 10 min., stirring occasionally. Put 1 ¼ cup powdered sugar in a mixing bowl. Add the hot liquid and beat until foamy. Add ¾ tsp baking powder and 1 tsp vanilla; continue to beat until thick. Frost with a knife. (If you don't beat long enough, it will be too runny.) Let frosting dry before putting them away.

**There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (ESV Isaiah 11:1)**

Christmas Traditions ~ Keeping Christ at the Center

Jim reads the Bible story out loud to our children and grandchildren before the festivities. We also adorn the house with many different Nativities accumulated throughout the years. ~ The Tuttle Family

We have a nativity scene encircled with an Advent wreath with candles that we like to use. We also like to memorize a Christmas passage as a family and count down using the Noel Piper Advent calendar. A new tradition we would like to start is watching the movie, *The Star*. ~ Susan, Aaron, and Rachel Hjort

Our family has always loved the decorating, music, baking, advent, and family gatherings. One simple thing we have done through the years with our children and now with our grandchildren is a highlight. After a day of putting up our tree and decorating the house, we bring out our simple manger scene. Each piece is wrapped individually and the children take turns picking out a piece and unwrapping it and placing it around the manger. The excitement is over who will end up getting the baby Jesus - the One we celebrate! All the while we are talking about what God has done! We end by singing "Away in a Manger." ~ Nancy Teten



*We like to use Advent candles and the Noel Piper Advent calendar. On Christmas Eve we watch the movie, *The Nativity*. ~ Kathy Nelson*

In growing up, it didn't matter how busy we were with meal time, all the company coming over, presents to open, singing songs at the piano, it all revolved around what time the church service was. Everything was dropped to attend church and praise the new born Lord and Savior of us all!!! ~Lois Fiege

We have our home Advent wreath, and on the Sundays preceding Christmas, we gather for a candle lighting, a scripture reading, a little discussion, and a song. On Christmas morning, we spend a little more time, with more reflection and more singing, before we get to the presents. It is especially delightful now that our sons are older and can contribute heartily and skillfully to the music. ~ Brenda Florestano

We never miss Christmas Eve service, and then, before opening gifts, Opa reads the Christmas story and has each one of the grandkids explain the true meaning of Christmas. ~ Marcia Doty, Brooks and Chloe Johnson

We love all the special services, Christmas readings using an Advent wreath, Advent calendars, and collecting nativity sets. We also try to do special acts of service such as making shoeboxes and ringing bells for the Salvation Army. One year I made simple Christmons to remind our family of the reason for the season. Christmons are basically Christian symbols as Christmas ornaments. I used a simple dough and cookie cutters that I already had. We made stars, crosses, fish, and butterflies to symbolize the resurrection. We baked and painted them and hung them on the tree. ~ Cherie Filmore



Youth Retreat at Trout Lake by Pastor Andrew Ross

The Landing youth ministry has an abundance of reasons to thank God! One recent cause for thanksgiving was our first youth retreat this November. Six students and four adults went out to Trout Lake Camp for a weekend and it was a wonderful time. One of the highlights was our discussions after the sessions about topics like the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and worship. Our group enjoyed a good amount of time together doing all sorts of activities. We left the retreat knowing each other better and feeling much closer as a group.

I want to thank all of you who were praying for us while we were gone. Also, a special thank you to Ben Hartman, Sarah Hartman, and Heather Ross for serving and leading our youth so well over the weekend. Ultimately, we are thankful to God for His grace and kindness to us over the retreat!

Events & Announcements

- **Men's Bible Study** every Tuesday morning at The Landing at 6:00am.
- **Women's Bible Study** Book study, *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller, meets alternating mornings (9:30am) and evenings (6:30pm) on Wednesdays. See Lori Steward for additional information.
- **Women's Luncheon** - December 1 at 10:30am
- **All-church prayer nights** are the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at the church at 6:30pm.
- **Pilates at 8:15pm meets Tuesdays & Thursdays** in the church basement. Bring a floor mat, water, and stretchy clothes. Peggy Carlson leads in a 45-minute class.
- **"The Shore" Sundays** are December 16 and January 20, from 6:00 to 7:00pm



Women's Prayer Dates & Places

December 4 6:30pm Lori Steward 2026 E. 9th St.
 December 11 10:00am Marcia Doty 1011 Okerstrom Rd. Hermantown
 December 18 6:30pm Cherie Filmore 432 Pinewood Ln.
 We will not be meeting on December 25 & January 1
 January 8 TBD
 January 15 TBD
 January 22 TBD
 January 29 TBD



Serving

Lunch @ The Landing

December 2 John and Marcia Franzen, Kelly Walburg, Mary Engblom
 December 9 Mark and Lori Steward, Mark and Lois Fiege
 December 16 Denny and Deb O'Hara, Scott and Peggy Carlson
December 23 & 30 No lunch @ The Landing
 January 6 Hjort Family
 January 13 Johnson Family
 January 20 Bill and Nancy Tetan, Kathy Hayes, Carol McGovern
 January 27 Gary and Marcia Doty, Joji Ginete, Bonnie Anderson
 February 3 Brian and Debra Calle, Cherie Filmore, Shelley Tuttle
 February 10 Kathy and Ruthie Nelson, Annette Foucault, Diane Nelson
 February 17 John and Marcia Franzen, Kelly Walburg, Mary Engblom
 February 24 Mark and Lori Steward, Mark and Lois Fiege

Little Landing & Nursery (below)

Date	Teacher	Helpers	Story	Scripture
December 2	Stephanie Johnson	Nathan Hjort Roman Turk	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls	Nehemiah 2:11-4:23
December 9	Cherie Filmore	David Hjort	An Angel Visits Mary	Luke 1:26-38
December 16	Anita Doty	Nathan Hjort Roman Turk	Jesus is Born	Luke 2:1-7
December 23	Marcia Doty	Maggie Johnson Lily Laravorich	Shepherds Greet Jesus Foreigners Worship Jesus	Luke 2:8-20 Matthew 2:1-21
December 30	Susan Hjort	Rachel Hjort Kiersten Loban	Jesus Grows into a Boy; Mary and Joseph Look for Jesus	Luke 2:41-52
January 6	Kathy Nelson	Ruth Nelson Lily Laravorich	Jesus is Baptized	Mark 1:9-11
January 13	Joy Loban	Rachel Hjort Kiersten Loban	Jesus is Tempted	Matthew 4:1-11
January 20	Heather Johnson	Brooks Johnson Chloe Johnson	Jesus Calls His Disciples	Luke 5:1-11
January 27	Cherie Filmore	Nathan Hjort Roman Turk	Jesus Teaches about the Wise and Foolish Men	Matthew 7:24-29
February 3	Anita Doty	David Hjort	Jesus Calms a Storm	Luke 8:22-25
February 10	Susan Hjort	Rachel Hjort Kiersten Loban	Jesus Loves the Children	Mark 10:13-16
February 17	Marcia Doty	Maggie Johnson Lily Laravorich	Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man	Mark 2:1-12
February 24	Stephanie Johnson	Nathan Hjort Roman Turk	Jesus Feeds 5,000 People	John 6:1-15

Nursery Crews

Dec. 2 Heather Ross (Kennedy)	Jan. 20 Joji Ginete (Peggy)
Dec. 9 Rayna Bichu (Lois F)	Jan. 27 Rayna Bishu (Carol M)
Dec. 16 Kelly Walburg (Nancy T)	Feb. 3 Lori Steward (Mark)
Dec. 23 Sarah Cavallin (Nate)	Feb. 10 Kelly Walburg (Nancy T)
Dec. 30 Peggy Carlson (Bonnie)	Feb. 17 Heather Ross (Kennedy)
Jan. 6 Emily Nichols (Evan)	Feb. 24 Sarah Cavallin (Nate)
Jan. 13 Sarah Hartman (Ben)	